वित्त पोषण विदेशी अथवा भारतीय गैर सरकारी वित्तीय संस्थाओं के ऋणों से नहीं किया जाता है।

(i) तीसरी तेल जैटी का निर्माण - अनुमानित लागत 29.90 करोड़ रु०।

(ii) 8वीं सामान्य कार्गो बर्थ का निर्माण - अनुमानित लागत 38.82 करोड़ रु०।

(iii) चौथी तेल जैटी का निर्माण - अनुमानित लागत 25.12 करोड़ रु०।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Non-Issuance of Electricity Bills by NDMC

*544. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NDMC has not been issuing Electricity Bills for the last one year; and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bills were issued to some consumers in the month of January, 1997, charging highly disproportionate amounts of money;

(c) if so, whether the excess amount is proposed to be adjusted immediately or in instalments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (d) The electricity bills were being regularly issued by NDMC upto September, 1996. However, he Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) toward the end of September, 1996 detected misappropriation of municipal revenue allegedly on the part of a private computer firm which had been engaged by the NDMC for the purpose of preparing electricity bills and collecting the charges from the consumers. This led to seizure of all the relevant records and the sealing of the computer system by the CBI, because of which the regular electricity bills could not be issued from Octoebr, 1996 onwards. The NDMC initially made efforts to issue the electricity bills manually to the bulk consumers, etc. but due to certain technical reasons, data stored in the computers could not be retrieved as a result of which the arrears outstanding against the consumers could not be ascertained. Subsequently, NDMC set up its own computer system and the electricity bills were sent to the consumers in a phased manner. Since the bills so issued covered a period of 4-5 months, the amounts reflected were for obvious reasons higher than the normal monthly billing, but the consumers were allowed to make the payment in instalments wherever such requests were received. The bills, however, continue to be raised on provisional basis without reflecting the areais prior to September, 1996 as the exact amount of such arrears cannot be verified till the entire data from old computer system is retrieved. Besides, the software fed into new computer system is based on a large number of parameters and there are chances that some errors might occur in the initialy phase till the system stabilises.

मध्य प्रदेश में भूमिगत जल-स्तर में गिरावट आना

*545. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:**
श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:

क्या **ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के पठारी क्षेत्र में भूमिगत जल-स्तर निरन्तर गिरता जा रहा है जिसकी वजह से ग्रामों में स्थापित कई हैण्डपम्प निष्क्रिय हो गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे क्षेत्रों में पेय-जल व्यवस्था बनाये रखने के लिए तथा भूमिगत-जल-स्तर को गिरने से रोकने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है;

(ग) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने प्रभावित जिलों के भूमिगत जल-स्तर को ऊपर उठाने संबंधी योजनाएं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय को भेजी थी; और

(घ) क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय

प्राथमिकता के आधार पर इन योजनाओं को स्वीकृति देकर उनके कार्यान्वयन हेतु केन्द्रीय सहायता उपलब्ध करने का विचार रखता है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री के० येरन्नान नायडू): (क) जी हां।

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ने वैज्ञानिक पद्धतियों से जल संरक्षण, मृदा संरक्षण और रिचार्ज उपायों के लिए राजीव गांधी वाटरशेड मिशन स्थापित किया है। यह कार्य 340 विकास खंडों के 2000 गांवों के 440 मिनी वाटरशेडों में किया गया है। इन योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत भूमिगत जल भंडार को रिचार्ज किया जाएगा जिससे इन क्षेत्रों में पेयजल आपूर्ति को बनाए रखने में मदद मिलेगी।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) राज्य सरकार से परियोजनाओं को संशोधित करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

Creation of Tariff Authority for Major Ports

*546. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Tariff Authority for Major Ports has been created;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its functions;

(c) the recurring expenditure on the chairperson and other members of the Authority; and

(d) the rate of tariff growth through the ports expected in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tariff Authority for Major Ports has been created with effect from the 10th of April, 1997. The Tariff Authority for Major Ports has a Chairman and two part-time Members. The funtions of the Authority are to frame the scale of rates for services and property in the Major Ports in India.

(c) The recurring expenditure on the pay all allowances to the Chairperson and other Members of the Authority including expenditure on establishment is likely to be Rs. 30.00 lakhs per annum.

(d) The tariff growth would depend on the increase in traffic and also the rate of inflation.

Premature Retirement of Defence Personnel

*547. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Army/Air Force had sent out in 1986, 1987 and 1988 some able serving officers to take up different Public Sector Undertakings on permanent absorption basis till the age of superannuation;

(b) whether some of such incumbents are now being asked to retire much before the age of superannuation despite excellent records of service;

(c) whether Government would intervene immediately to extend protection to such officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Army/Air Force Officers can take up assignments in various Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) either on deputation or on permanent absorption basis. If selected on deputation basis, the terms and conditions of deputation are as decided by the Government. Alternatively, they are required to seek premature retirement from Army/Air Force Service. This is purely on voluntary basis and no officer has been sent to join a PSU against his willingness. Once an officer of the Army/Air Force joins a PSU on